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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, May 31.—Communications were read by Mr. James E. Benedict on the recent cruise of the steamer *Albatross* in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean sea; by Ensign E. E. Hayden, U.S.N., on a new method of figuring fossil leaves and other objects by the aid of photography; by Mr. John A. Ryder on the development of viviparous minnows; and by Mr. Romyn Hitchcock on a collection of Foraminifera belonging to the genus *Lagena*.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, June 2.—A new process of cutting intaglios and cameos, so as to produce the finer effects of the ancient glyptic work, illustrated with specimens and with the present and the proposed machinery, was described by Mr. George F. Kunz; Mr. Edward W. Martin remarked on photo-micrography, processes and results, with illustrations.

June 9.—The scenery of the Rocky Mountain parks was described by the president with a series of lantern illustrations.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, June 11.—The following papers were presented: Notes taken on a recent trip to Black and Roan mountains, N. Carolina, A. E. Scott; A trip to the Sourdnehunk mountains, near Ktaadn, Geo. H. Witherle; The mountains near Lakes Willoughby and Memphremagog, C. E. Fay, J. R. Edmands.

OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB.—During 1882 and 1883 this society has given five soirées, at which the following papers were read: No. 1, December 6, 1882, "President's inaugural address," J. Fletcher; No. 2, January 19, 1883, "The Laurentian system," F. D. Adams, and report of the Mineralogical branch; No. 3, "The fresh-water fishes of this vicinity," N. B. Small, and report of the Conchological branch; No. 4, "Notes on and description of some fossils from the Trenton limestone," W. R. Billings; "A note on *Triarthrus spinosus* Billings," H. M. Ami; report of the Palæontological branch and report of the Ornithological and Zoölogical branch; No. 5, "The ducks of this locality," W. P. Lett; report of the Botanical branch and report of the Entomological branch.

Three excursions were held during the season of 1883: To King's Mere on 8th June; Deschene's mills on 2d September and Brigham's quarries on 21st October.

The council caused to be printed the transactions (No. 3) of the club for the year 1881-'82, consisting of sixty-six closely printed pages and two excellent plates. The transactions contain, in addition to the papers and reports read before the club, a list of the birds so far recorded from this locality.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, April 18.—Extract from a Report on the Ham's Fork coals of Wyoming Terri-

tory, by P. W. Sheaffer, were read. Mr. Lesley exhibited models of the Nittany valley and Bald Eagle mountain, and of the Jones mine, made by Mr. Harden. Dr. Hunt gave an account of his examination of the Jones and other iron mines, and assigned them all to the horizon of H. D. Rogers' primal slates, though they lie in immediate contact with the Trias. Dr. Frazer said that facts show that some of the mines penetrate the Trias, yet the triassic iron-ore deposits may be merely the redeposited detritus of more extensive primal slate iron ores.

May 2.—Mr. Phillips made a communication "On a supposed Runic inscription near Yarmouth, N. S.," and exhibited a photograph and a squeeze from it. Mr. Ashburner exhibited recently printed sheets of cross sections made by the Geological Survey in Schuylkill and Lucerne counties, and explained some of the peculiarities of structure.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Feb. 21.—Mr. Meehan described an abnormal *Halesia tetraptera*, with separate petals and leaves like those of the apple. The plant grew under similar conditions to numerous other normal seedlings and was the offspring of the same tree. Mr. Lockington considered this a case of reversion. Professor Heilprin exhibited specimens of carboniferous fossils, with *Phillipsia*, and along with them an ammonite, the oldest yet discovered, which he named *Ammonites parlaii*.

Feb. 28.—Dr. Leidy directed attention to specimens of a *Distoma* from the mouth of the alligator. *Distoma oricola* was proposed as the name. Examples of *Filaria horrida*, from the throat of the American ostrich, were shown, and also some filariæ from the marsh owl. The last accorded so closely with the *Filaria labiata* of the black stork of Europe and North Africa, that the speaker believed them to be the same species. Dr. Randolph detailed the results of experiments upon the digestion of boiled and unboiled milk, and announced his conclusion that the latter had the advantage as a nutrient.

March 3.—Dr. Leidy stated his belief that the species of *Apsilus dictyophora*, and *Cupelophagus* described by himself and others were really but one species. Miss Foulke maintained the distinctness of the forms described by Forbes and Meznichow, and described *Trachelius leidyi*, a ciliate infusorian found in Schuylkill water. Dr. McCook described the cocoons of the few species of orb-weaving spiders which make more than one cocoon.

March 13.—Mr. Ford exhibited specimens of *Zirphæa crispata* found in driftwood at Atlantic City. Professor Heilprin recorded the finding of *Porpita linnæana* near Cape May, and Mr. Tryon remarked that in 1876 he found an example at Atlantic City. Mr. Potts stated that the stems of *Urnatella* on the dry sponge-crust collected by him at Fairmount had commenced to show signs of life.